



CATAWBA COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COY REID, SHERIFF

P.O. Box 385 • 100-B South West Boulevard • Newton, North Carolina 28658-0385 • Office: 828-464-5241
Jail: 828-465-8999
www.catawbacountync.gov/sheriff

Fax: 828-465-8471

Catawba County Sheriff's Office to Assist In Operation Pill Stoppers Drop box Program

The Catawba County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with The Cognitive Connection and The Foothills Coalition are sponsoring an Operation Pill Stoppers program that now provides fixed locations for citizens to properly dispose of their unused and unwanted medications. The Foothills Coalition is made up of several different organizations of youth in our community. These groups include The Catawba County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 385, Soldiers of Christ, Young People of Integrity, and Young Women of Distinction.

As of this week special drop boxes designed for this purpose have been placed at locations throughout Catawba County. These include the Catawba County Sheriff's Office, Newton Police Department, Conover Police Department, Claremont Police Department, Hickory Police Department, and Maiden Police Department. Residents can now drop off unwanted or unused medications at these locations during regular working hours.

The Catawba County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit will be responsible for collecting these medications and for insuring they're disposal by incineration, a service being provided by the Catawba County Animal Control.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, 1 in 5 teens admit to abusing prescription drugs to get high in the past year. Sixty percent of teens who abused prescription pain relievers did so before the age of 15. Sixty-three percent of teens believe that prescription drugs are easy to get from friends' and family's medicine cabinets. According to the Center for Disease Control, prescription drugs, including opioids and antidepressants, are responsible for more overdose deaths than "street drugs" such as cocaine, heroin, and amphetamines.

For more information on the Foothills Coalition please visit their Facebook page "Foothill Coalition". If you have any question about the drop boxes or want to request mobile drop box event contact Corporal E. Kanipe at ekanipe@catawbacountync.gov or at (828)465-8336. You may also get in touch with Lynette Scott or Chris Johnson at The Cognitive Connection 1109 2nd Ave. SW Hickory, NC 28602 or (828)327-6026 ext.239